

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 021400Z NOV 76

FM AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1270

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

TEN/AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MARSEILLE 474

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MORG PINT FR

SUBJECT: RETIRING FOREIGN LEGION COMMANDER DISCUSSES LEGION AND  
SITUATION IN CORSICA

1. FOLLOWING HIS RETIREMENT PARADE ON OCTOBER 29 BRIGADIER  
GENERAL GUSTAV FOUREAU TOLD ME HE FELT LEGION HAD EMERGED FROM  
ITS RECENT CRISIS IN CORSICA STRENGTHENED BY UNEXPECTED SUPPORT  
FROM VARIOUS STRATAS OF FRENCH SOCIETY. HE CITED NUMEROUS OFFERS  
TO HOST LEGION UNITS RECEIVED FROM MUNICIPALITIES THROUGHOUT  
FRANCE AND STATED THAT COMMUNIST MAYOR OF AUBAGNE (PRESENT  
LEGION HEADQUARTERS) HAD NOT ONCE REFERED PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY  
TO GEORGE MARCHAIS' CALL FOR LEGIONS DISMANTLEMENT.  
FOUREAU ADMITTED THAT LEGION HAS BEEN UNDER STIFF GOVERNMENT PRESSURE  
PRESSURE TO TIGHTEN UP RECRUIT SELECTION AND WEED OUT POTENTIAL  
TROUBLE MAKERS.

2. SPEAKING OF HIS RECENT TRIPS TO CORSICA, GENERAL FOUREAU  
EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT GOF, IN ATTEMPTING TO MINIMIZE SERIOUSNESS  
OF SITUATION THERE, MIGHT BECOME TOO COMPLACENT. HE GRANTED  
FACT THAT ACTIVE LIBERATION GROUPS WERE "SMALL MINORITY" BUT  
STRESSED THAT SUCCESSFUL REVOLUTIONS ARE ALWAYS LAUNCHED BY  
SMALL GROUPS AND CITED INDOCHINA, NORTH AFRICA AS EXAMPLES.

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FOUREAU ADDED THAT CORSICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT HAS BEEN RECEIVING

CONTRIBUTIONS OF MONEY FROM CORSICAN COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS AND BUSINESSMEN. HE DESCRIBED PAYOFFS AS RANSOM BUT SAID MANY CORSICANS PREFERRED TO THINK OF THESE "CONTRIBUTIONS" AS AN INVESTMENT IN THE UNCERTAIN FUTURE. HE STATED THAT MONEY WAS USED TO BUY SMALL ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES AND HINTED THAT LINKS BETWEEN CORSICAN "FAMILIES" AND ITALIAN MAFIA HAD BROUGHT CLANDESTINE SUPPORT TO LIBERATION GROUPS. THE GENERAL SAID THAT RUMOR MILLS ON ISLAND CONTINUE TO GRIND OUT STORIES OF INDIRECT AMERICAN SUPPORT TO "THE REBELS" AND SPEAK OF US INTEREST IN CORSICA AS AN EVENTUAL MILITARY BASE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

3. GENERAL FOUREAU HAS BEEN REPLACED AS FOREIGN LEGION COMMANDER BY COLONEL BERNARD GOUPIL  
SIMPSON

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